

A NEW BRACONID PARASITE OF THE POTATO TUBERWORM
(HYMENOPTERA)

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Most of the species of the braconid genus *Orgilus*, all presumably internal parasites of lepidopterous larvae, are undescribed. I have undertaken a study of the North American species, in which the South American form described here is included because of its apparent establishment in California. Advance publication of this description has been requested in order that a name may be available for use in a paper now in preparation at the Citrus Research Center, Riverside, California, that deals with the biology of the parasite.

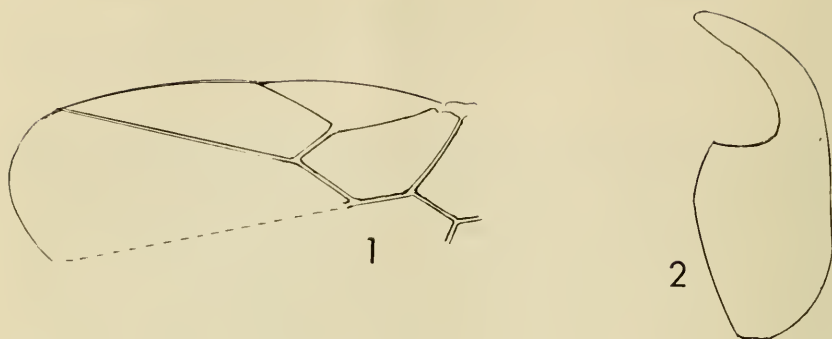
Orgilus lepidus, n. sp.

This is rather similar to *O. lateralis* (Cresson), from which it may be distinguished, however, by its smoother abdomen and by the poorly developed subbasal tooth of the tarsal claw. From the only other known South American species of the genus, *O. gossypii* Muesebeck, it differs in its relatively shorter radial cell, its smoother abdomen, much weaker dorsal keels of the first tergite and its darker coloring.

Female.—Length about 4 mm. Head not wider than thorax, in dorsal view 1.8 times as wide as long; face 1.2 times as wide as eye height, sharply punctate; malar space slightly more than one-third as long as eye height; temples gradually receding, 0.6 as wide as eyes, smooth and shining; occipital carina strong laterally, very weak medially; ocellocular line more than twice as long as diameter of an ocellus; vertex finely punctate; antennae 29- or 30-segmented in the available specimens, even the shortest segments of the flagellum slightly longer than broad.

Thorax stout; mesoscutum shining and largely smooth, with only scattered punctures; notauli weakly foveolate anteriorly, more strongly so posteriorly; disc of scutellum rather flat, polished; propodeum evenly convex, largely alutaceous to granulose with some weak, indefinite rugulae medially; side of pronotum finely roughened below the impression, smooth and polished above it; mesopleuron smooth and polished, the longitudinal furrow sinuate and finely foveolate; metapleuron largely smooth. Hind coxa evenly coriaceous and rather mat; hind femur 1.5 times as long as hind coxa and 3.8 times as long as its maximum width; inner calcarium of hind tibia slightly more than half as long as metatarsus; tarsal claw with a subbasal angulation but without a distinct subbasal tooth as in *lateralis*. Radial cell on wing margin about 1.2 times as long as stigma; second abscissa of radius nearly on a line with intercubitus; stub of third abscissa of cubitus punctiform; nervulus clearly postfurcal; lower abscissa of basella a little less than half as long as mediella or than maximum width of hind wing.

Abdomen a little narrower than thorax; first tergite nearly one and one-half times as long as broad at apex, evenly coriaceous, the dorsal keels weak and extending only slightly beyond spiracles; second tergite about 1.25 times as wide at base as long, more or less coriaceous or granulose medially, broadly



Figs. 1 and 2. *Orgilus lepidus*, n. sp. Fig. 1, part of fore wing; fig. 2, tarsal claw.

smooth laterally; third and following tergites smooth and polished; ovipositor sheath just about as long as head, thorax and abdomen combined.

Yellowish brown; antennae brownish black; palpi piceous; a spot on frons and vertex enclosing the ocelli, the mesospectus and propodeum black; tegulae and wing bases reddish yellow; wings hyaline; legs brownish yellow, the hind coxa more or less darkened inwardly toward base, and also the hind femur along its upper edge, the hind tibia blackish with a conspicuous pale annulus at extreme base, all tarsi darkened; abdomen with apex of first tergite and all of the second and third tergites usually brownish yellow, the remainder of the dorsum of the abdomen black.

Male.—Essentially like the female but usually darker, especially on the coxae. The antennae are more slender and are 28- to 30 segmented in the available specimens.

Holotype.—USNM 69536.

Described from 5 females (one, the holotype) and 5 males (one, the allotype) reared from the potato tuberworm, *Phthorimaea operculella* (Zeller), at Balcarce, Argentina; 6 females and 6 males labeled as having been reared from lepidopterous larvae on *Chenopodium* at Montivideo, Uruguay, in 1946 by H. L. Parker, and 1 female which is said to have been reared from *P. operculella* at Moreno, California, July 20, 1965, by E. R. Oatman.